



ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES



Superintendent
of Documents

LIBRARY PROGRAMS SERVICE

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Open Letter to the Depository Library Community

Dear Librarian:

I want to express my appreciation publicly to members of the Depository Library Council for the very considerable time and effort they contributed recently in developing an extensive list of depository items for possible conversion to microfiche in the coming months. Depository librarians can well understand the difficulties inherent in such a task, given the diversity of library types within the depository system. Yet, our Council members met this challenge as true professionals and public servants. Armed with Council's list of depository items, GPO is now in a better position to effect the necessary reductions in depository expenses, while minimizing adverse impact on depository libraries and their user communities. All depository librarians have good cause to be proud of their peers who are serving on Depository Library Council.

As we move toward fiscal year 1987, GPO is likely to be facing other complex and important issues requiring prompt decisions on my part. In these cases, I will continue to rely upon the advice of my Depository Library Council for making informed decisions. There may be times that I will be asking Council's advice on short notice, when circumstances demand that I move quickly. Therefore, it behooves depository librarians to communicate their concerns and suggestions to Depository Library Council members on a continuous basis.

During the month of July 1986, I will be considering nominees for the five Council seats that will soon become vacant. Again this year, I am particularly interested in identifying a balanced group of candidates, who can speak for those regions and types of libraries that have traditionally been under-represented on Council. I will welcome and consider any nominations from interested individuals or organizations. Please send nominations to the following address by June 30, 1986:

The Public Printer
Attn: Depository Library Council Nominations
U.S. Government Printing Office
Washington, DC 20401

Sincerely,

Ralph E. Kennickell Jr.
RALPH E. KENNICKELL, JR.
Public Printer

SELECTION UPDATE CYCLE

LPS recently announced that the frequency of Item Selection Updates is being changed from semi-annual to annual, effective with the May/June 1986 Update. Issued with that announcement was a request that librarians in selective depositories conduct a zero-base review of their current selections in order to identify and delete unneeded items during the current Item Selection Update.

Since the release of that announcement, a number of depository librarians have asked LPS for a time extension beyond the June 20 item selection deadline, indicating that extra time would be needed to conduct the suggested zero-base review. Unfortunately, LPS is unable to extend the June 20 deadline because of operational commitments and tight scheduling within GPO.

However, LPS intends to implement an alternate solution on a one-year trial basis. As of October 1, 1986, LPS will begin processing item selection cards for item deletions as they are received in LPS throughout the year, without waiting for the annual May/June Update. Requested item deletions may take from 4 to 6 weeks to process in LPS, depending on workload. Item selection cards requesting added items, on the other hand, will not be processed immediately, but will be held in LPS for the annual May/June Update. To simplify recordkeeping and processing in LPS, librarians should use separate item selection cards for item deletions and item additions. This will enable LPS to process your changes more promptly and accurately.

We in LPS hope that this operational change will provide more flexibility to selective depository libraries in conducting thorough and thoughtful zero-base reviews of their depository item selections.
